GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2733
ANSWERED ON:21.08.2006
WORLD WATER FORUM
Scindia Shri Jyotiraditya Madhavrao

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether adequacy or otherwise of water in India was reviewed and assessed at the 4th World Water Forum in Mexico on the World Water Forum in Mexico on the World Water Day;

(b) if so, the extent to which the Government's independent study agrees with the revelations of the World Water Forum; and

(c) the action plan, if any, drawn out to secure access to water?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES(PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ)

(a) & (b) There was no specific review for adequacy or otherwise of water in India during the 4th World Water Forum (WWF) held in Mexico in March, 2006. However, the Second World Water Development Report released by UNESCO on 22nd March 2006 during the WWF presents an overall scenario of water resources related issues at the global level. This also includes information in respect of water availability etc. for India. As per the report, the available water in India is of the order of 1897 billion cubic meter per year. The Central Water Commission has assessed the water availability for India as 1869 billion cubic meter per year. Therefore, there is no substantial difference.

(c) With a view to optimally utilize the available resources, several measures for development and management of water resources are undertaken by the respective State Governments which include creation of storages, restoration of water bodies, rain water harvesting, artificial recharge of ground water and adoption of better management practices etc. State Governments conceive plan and implement major, medium and minor schemes, both surface and ground water for utilization of water resources. Government of India is providing central assitance to the State Governments through various schemes/programmes, such as Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP); Command Area Development and Water Management (CADWM) Programme; National Project for Repair, Renovation and Restoration of Water Bodies directly linked to Agriculture etc. The Government of India also encourages rainwater harvesting and recharge to groundwater for conservation of water. Ministry of Water Resources has also formulated a National Perspective Plan (NPP) for water resources development envisaging inter-basin transfer of water from surplus basins to deficit basins/areas.